

REMARKS

The present application was filed on June 21, 2001 with claims 1-29. Claims 2, 11, 13, 20 and 29 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 remain pending. Claims 1, 12 and 19 are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding Office Action dated May 2, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,678,719 (hereinafter “Stimmel”). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a method for use in a collaborative system. A plurality of participants are set up in a group to collaboratively communicate. Presence information of each of the participants in the group is determined in accordance with a use of at least one communicative device associated with each participant and monitored by the collaborative system. A visual representation is dynamically displayed having a plurality of display windows including at least the participants, the collected presence information, and a set of mechanisms for a participant to select in conjunction with the displayed presence information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more other participants in the group for a particular collaborative purpose. The displayed presence information and at least one of the mechanisms are employed to initiate, through the collaborative system, communication with one or more other participants in the group. At least one of the mechanisms includes setting up one or more third party calls to initiate communication with one or more other participants in the group for the particular collaborative purpose. Independent claims 12 and 19, as amended, recite apparatus having similar limitations. Support for the amendments can be found on page 19, line 14, through page 20, line 22, of the specification.

Stimmel discloses a virtual workplace intercommunication tool. As disclosed in column 4, lines 38-60 of Stimmel, a user’s status information such as “Do not disturb,” “Away from desk,” and “Out of the office,” is established or changed by that user. However, Stimmel fails to disclose the determination of presence information for each participant in the group in accordance with a use of at least one communicative device associated with each participant and monitored by the collaborative system. The participant’s status information in Stimmel provides insufficient

disclosure to anticipate the presence information recited in the independent claims of the present invention.

Stimmel also discloses a set of communication actions. The user may enter information associated with each communication action, such as an email address or phone number. However, Stimmel fails to disclose the dynamic display of a set of mechanisms for a participant to select in conjunction with the displayed presence information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more other participants in the group for a particular collaborative purpose, as recited in the independent claims of the present invention. Further, Stimmel fails to disclose the employment of the displayed presence information and at least one mechanism to initiate, through the collaborative system, communication with one or more other participants in the group

Applicants assert that dependent claims 3-10, 14-18 and 21-28 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1, 12 and 19. Dependent claims 3-10, 14-18 and 21-28 also recite patentable subject matter in their own right.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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